



honor your Self

“IF YOU HAVE A GOAL, GO FOR IT WITHOUT A DOUBT IN YOUR MIND THAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE IT.”



Jamie Fox 19
Gros Ventre/Metis
Harlem High School
Crew Chief, United States Air Force

When Jamie Fox was 15, she decided that she wanted to make aviation a career. Her father, who had always had a love for planes and anything related to aeronautics, supported Jamie’s interest and even helped her get flight lessons. Today Jamie is proud to be a Crew Chief in the United States Air Force, where she maintains aircraft for mission readiness. “We are the ones who carry the lives of the rest of the crew members,” she says. “My responsibilities consist of learning and doing my job 110 percent. There is no such thing as cutting corners.” Jamie says that her tribal culture plays a big part in her career. “As a Gros Ventre and Metis, I have been taught to be proud of where I come from, what I do, and who I am,” she says. “That also defines the culture of being a Crew Chief in the Air Force...we have to take great pride in our work to make sure it is done right...that mentality allows you to gain confidence and self-assurance in all that you do.” Recently, Jamie’s hard work has paid off. She has received two awards within her squadron: Airman of the Month and Airman of the Quarter.

Along with her career in the Air Force, Jamie is known for her abilities on the golf course and in the world of traditional folk music. “I grew up being a part of the Metis tradition,” says Jamie. “It is an intricate music and dance tradition that has been kept alive since the start of the 1700s. I play the fiddle and also step dance in the traditional way. My dad plays guitar and my brother, Vince, also plays the fiddle. For the past nine years, my family and I have traveled all over the country performing and teaching the music and dance of the Metis through festivals, symposiums, and workshops.” This past year, the Fox family was even featured at the National Folk Festival. Her music, says Jamie, “allowed me to travel all over the world and experience many different things, meet so many colorful people who are now my friends and who have influenced and mentored me.” All of her accomplishments, says Jamie, began in the same way. “I started by trying new things and just doing them... for example, the first day of boot camp in the military is an uneasy experience, but once you get accustomed to it, you know you can get through it. Flying an airplane makes you uneasy the first time, too. But as soon as you gain confidence in your knowledge that you know what you’re doing, it becomes a sense of well-being and accomplishment.”

“IN MY SHOP, WE ALL COME FROM DIFFERENT PLACES AND BACKGROUNDS. WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT WAYS OF HOW WE WERE RAISED, HOW WE DO THINGS, AND IDEAS. I THINK THAT HELPS WHEN IT COMES TO DOING OUR WORK. IN MY EXPERIENCE, WHEN IT COMES TO FITTING IN AND SHARING YOUR KNOWLEDGE, BEING DIFFERENT IS KEY.”



Montana Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Instate toll free 1-888-231-9393
www.opi.mt.gov

For more information about the poster series go to:
opi.mt.gov/IndianEd/AmerIndianPosters